(d) Organising Lok Adalats is a continuing process and by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based. The Lok Adalats are playing an important role in reducing the pendency in High Courts and lower courts.

(e) Yes, Sir. All help and assistance is provided by the Government to States for setting up more and more Lok Adalats.

Amendment to Civil Procedure Code

546. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Procedure Code has been amended recently;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a number of the amendments have affected the weaker sections of the society being unable to meet the new limitation period prescribed for various procedural stages;

(c) whether lawyers have opposed these amendments;

(d) whether Government proposes to reconsider some of the anti poor amendments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) After holding wide range consultations, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 was last amended by the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 22 of 2002). It is not correct to say that a number of amendments have affected the weaker sections of the society being unable to meet the new limitation period prescribed for various procedural stages.

(c) and (d) The Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu, has challenged the constitutional validity of the amendments made to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in 1999 and 2002 and the Supreme Court has rejected the same in Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu *vs.* Union of India [(2003) 1 SSC 49]. It is not correct to say that these amendments are anti-poor. No proposals for reconsidering the amendments are under the consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.